IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, line as follows:

This patent application is a continuation of United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/971,395 filed October 5, 2001, which in turn claims priority on co-pending United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/250,831, filed December 4, 2000, entitled "Mold-Injected Spinal Fusion Cage," and United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/286,073, filed April 24, 2001, entitled "Mold-Injected Surgical Implant."

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 12 as follows:

In accordance with another aspect of the present invention, the prosthetic implant is made of a material that is inert or biologically compatible with a human or animal. The material can be partially bioabsorable, fully bioabsorable or non-bioabsorable. In one embodiment, the material is wear resistant. In still another embodiment, the material has an increased frictional coefficient. In another embodiment, the material has a reduced frictional coefficient. In yet another embodiment, the prosthetic implant is designed to maintain a tension load of about ten to forty pounds, and more preferably about fifteen to thirty-five pounds on the disc tissue and/or vertebral endplate when the prosthetic implant is implanted in an intervertebral disk space. This tension load facilitates in maintaining the prosthetic implant in position between the vertebrae and accelerates bone ingrowth between the vertebrae, if such bone growth is desired. As can be appreciated, other tension loads may be more appropriated for prosthetic implants used in different parts of a human or animal. In a further embodiment, the prosthetic implant is made of a material which closely approximates the elasticity of the bone and/or tissue being fully or partially replaced by the prosthetic implant. In another embodiment, the prosthetic implant is coated with, made up of, and/or contains a material

which is radiolucent to enhance the visibility of the implant when exposed to X-rays, ultraviolet light, [inferred] infrared light, etc. In a further embodiment, the prosthetic implant is coated with, made up of, and/or contains a material to enhance the visibility of the implant when exposed to sound waves, light waves, magnetic waves, and/or various types of electromagnetic waves.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 13 as follows:

In another embodiment, the moldable compound of the prosthetic implant is fully or partially hardened prior to inserting the prosthetic implant into a human or animal. The moldable compound can be hardened by one or more techniques such as, but not limited to, heat, drying, radiation, catalysts, chemical reactions, other electromagnetic waves (e.g., ultraviolet light, [inferred] infrared light, visible light, microwaves, radio waves, X-rays, gamma rays, etc.), sound waves (e.g., audible sound, ultrasonic waves), and the like. In one embodiment, the moldable compound in a partially hardened state allows a surgeon to make minor modifications to the prosthetic implant while the prosthetic implant is inserted into the patient. In one aspect of this embodiment, a portion of the prosthetic implant is substantially hardened and a portion of the prosthetic implant is not fully or substantially hardened. In one specific design, the prosthetic implant is a portion of a rib. The end of the prosthetic implant that is to merge with an existing rib is not fully hardened. Once the prosthetic rib is positioned in the patient, the non-hardened portion of the prosthetic implant is at least partially molded by the surgeon onto the existing rib. After the molding by the surgeon, the non-fully hardened moldable compound can be hardened by the surgeon and/or be left in the patient to harden or not harden on its own.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 13 as follows:

Referring to the drawings, wherein the showings are for the purpose of illustrating the preferred embodiment of the invention only and not for the purpose of limiting the same, FIGURE 1, illustrates one of the manufacturing processes for producing a custom-sized prosthetic implant in accordance with the present invention. As illustrated in FIGURE 1, patient P is positioned on an examining table 10 for examination to obtain information about the size and shape of a prosthetic implant 20 to be surgically implanted into the patient. A scanning device 40 is positioned near the patient to obtain information concerning the region about which the prosthetic implant will be inserted into the patient. The scanning device can be any number of devices such as, but not limited to an MRI, an ultrasonic scanner, and [inferred] infrared scanner, a radiation scanner, a heat scanner, an X-ray machine, and the like. As can be appreciated, one scanning device or multiple scanning devices can be used to obtain the data required for the prosthetic implant. In one typical arrangement, the scanning device is an MRI.